

### Paul as a Court Preacher.

'As he reasoned of righteousness, temperance and judgment to come, Felix trembled.' It would be well if those that flock to the court-churches of our capitals, could hear more of this kind of preaching, and less of science and aesthetics. No preacher stands now at such disadvantage as did Paul. He stood as a prisoner in the presence of the judge, on whose favor his life and liberty depended. Yet he acted the part of no obsequious flatterer. He did not seek to charm his ears with brilliant notions, nor did he excuse or condone his vices. He emphasized the cardinal principles of righteousness and purity, and smote the flagrant sins of this adulterous pair with the mailed hand of a moral Hercules.

He spoke of righteousness before a corrupt and venal officer. And has the Felix-type of public men become extinct? Hardly a worse blight ever falls upon a city or nation than immorality in the lives of men in high places; and our nation is staggering under this nightmare today.

He reasoned of temperance or purity, before this Roman libertine and this Jewish princess who was his consort in guilt. And as long as barrooms and bagnios flourish by the sanction and patronage of our lawmakers, there will be a need of just such preaching. Our age needs men in the Spirit of Elijah, and John the Baptist, and Paul, to stand before princes, and politicians, and people, and reason of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come. Would that we were worthy to touch the garment's hem of such moral heroes.

Paul reasoned of judgment to come, in the presence of the unjust judge, who needed to be reminded of his responsibility to the Judge, at whose bar all the purple and gems of royalty are as fig-leaves and grains of sand. Our public men sometimes are so inflated with egotism by a little brief authority, that they look down haughtily or with patronizing spirit on the church and its ministry; and all the time God looks down on them as quite in need of salvation as common sinners. Like thousands of public men in our time, Felix rode for a little while the waves of political favor, and then sank in the abyss of merited oblivion. The world today despises the proud but pusillanimous procurator, but honors Paul as one of the transcendent men whose names and lives have given splendor to history.

Brethren, we can afford to endure all the snubbing, and pity the snobbery of politicians and 'society,' but we cannot afford to show a fawning and unmanly spirit at any time or in any presence.—Missionary Weekly

### Progress of Invention Since 1845.

In the year 1845 the present owners of the Scientific American newspaper commenced its publication, and soon after established a bureau for the procuring of patents for inventions at home and in foreign countries. During the year 1845 there were only 502 patents issued from the U. S. Patent office, and the total issue from the establishment of the Patent office, up to the end of that year numbered only 4,347.

Up to the first of July this year there have been granted 406,431. Showing that since the commencement of the publication of the Scientific American there have been issued from the U. S. Patent office 402,166 patents, and about one third more applications have been made than have been granted, showing the ingenuity of the people to be phenomenal, and much greater than ever the enormous number of patents indicates. Probably a good many of our readers have had business transacted through the office of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN in New York or Washington, and are familiar with Munn and Co.'s mode of doing business, but those who have not will be interested in knowing something about this, the oldest patent soliciting firm in this country, probably in the world.

Persons visiting the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, 361 Broadway, N. Y., for the first time will be surprised, on entering the main office to find such an extensive and elegantly equipped establishment, with its walnut counters, desks, and chairs to correspond, and its enormous safes, and such a large number of draughtsmen, specification writers, and clerks, all busy as bees, reminding one of a large banking or insurance office, with its hundred employees.

In conversation with one of the firm, who had commenced the business of soliciting patents in connection with the publication of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, more than forty years ago, I learned that his firm had made application for patents for upward of one hundred thousand inventors in the United States and several thousands in different foreign countries, and had filed as many cases in the Patent Office in a single month as there were patents issued during the entire first year of their business career. This gentleman had seen the Patent Office grow from a sapling to a sturdy oak, and he modestly hinted that many thought the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, with its large circulation, had performed no mean share in stimulating inventions and advancing the interest of the Patent Office. But it is not alone the patent soliciting that occupies the attention of the one hundred persons employed by Munn & Co., but a large number are engaged on the four publications issued weekly and monthly from their office, 361 Broadway N. Y., viz.: The SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT, the Export Edition of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, and the Architects and Builders of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. The first two publications are issued every week, and the latter two, the first of every month.

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### The Grain-Plant Louse in Ohio.

One of the most notable outbreaks that has occurred in Ohio for many years is now taking place in the grain fields of the State. The insect is one which has long been known as the Grain Plant Louse (*Siphonophora granaria*), having originally occurred in Europe, from whence it was probably introduced into this country early in its history. It has only occasionally ravaged grainfields here, and so far as our present information goes, has seldom been injurious in Ohio.

This insect is closely related to the 'green fly' of house plants, rose bushes, etc. It is a small greenish, or in some cases brownish insect, with or without wings, infesting the leaves and heads of plants of the grass family. It obtains its food by inserting a pointed beak into the leaf or stem and sucking out the sap. As the wheat gets ripe it migrates to the more succulent oats, and when these ripen, will go to various grasses. It brings forth living young, and its rate of multiplication is very great, it being estimated that a single louse in spring may become the ancestor of many millions before autumn.

Fortunately this insect has a great many enemies which prey upon it, and are now doing immense good in decimating its ranks. These are of various kinds, and in some places are being mistaken for foes instead of friends of the farmer. The one which is causing the most apprehension is a peculiar dark colored, six-footed insect, generally with spots of a brighter color on its back, looking, as one person expressed it, 'half worm and half bug,' which is very abundant in the infested wheat

fields, crawling about over the heads. These are the young or larvae of various species of lady-bugs, or lady-beetles, and instead of attacking the wheat, as many farmers believe, is really feeding upon the lice themselves and destroying them by thousands. Another insect that is doing immense good is a very small four winged fly that deposits an egg within the louse. This egg hatches into a grub that develops at the expense of the louse, destroying it and emerging again as a four-winged fly. The dead lice 'struck' by these parasites become dull brown in color, and adhere to the leaf or stem upon which they were feeding.

CLARENCE M. WEED, Entomologist and Botanist. Columbus, Ohio, June 25, '89

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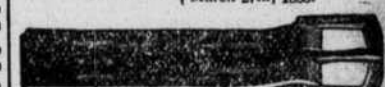
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